



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Oregon Youth Authority

Office of the Director

530 Center Street NE, Suite 200

Salem, OR 97301-3765

Voice: 503-373-7205

Fax: 503-373-7622

[www.oregon.gov/OYA](http://www.oregon.gov/OYA)



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### NEWS RELEASE

Media Contacts:

C. J. Drake, OYA Communications Office

503-385-5899 or [CJ.Drake@oya.state.or.us](mailto:CJ.Drake@oya.state.or.us)

Sara Inman, Education Portal

650-962-1200, ext. 521 or [sara@education-portal.com](mailto:sara@education-portal.com)

## OYA offers innovative education options to at-risk youth

*Partnership with Education Portal will help overcome school-to-prison pipeline*



*At left, a youth in an OYA facility uses Education Portal courses on DVD (right) to earn college credit.*

As the first round of Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) kids graduate from their facility's high school this weekend, the agency is introducing a first-of-its-kind program to help troubled youth catch up on educational opportunities they missed before incarceration.

Known as [Education Portal](#), the program offers free, online college courses that lead to widely accepted college credit. Oregon will be the first state in the nation to offer an array of college courses to juvenile offenders.

Because kids have limited internet access in OYA facilities during school hours, they will have more opportunities to learn from college video DVDs after school. Using Education Portal, youth can earn credit for the first two years of college and significantly reduce the time and cost of earning a degree.

“We who work with troubled kids are only too aware of the school-to-prison pipeline,” said OYA Director Fariborz Pakseresht. “When at-risk youth arrive at OYA, they are often years behind in high school, have learning disabilities, and have suffered from abuse and neglect. We are deeply grateful to Education Portal for this partnership that offers kids a chance to make up for lost time and educational opportunities.”

Each DVD contains a series of 5-minute lectures on math, English or other topics taught by experienced instructors. Each lecture is followed by a brief quiz that is instantly graded. The courses are designed specifically to help OYA youth pass credit-granting exams such as the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) test. CLEP credit is accepted by nearly 3,000 colleges and universities nationwide.

"We are proud to partner with OYA's efforts to bring college education to incarcerated students and reduce recidivism," said Ben Wilson, Education Portal president.

Approximately 300 of the more than 800 youth in OYA's 10 facilities statewide are eligible to participate in the Education Portal program. After they leave OYA's care, they can continue learning by using the company's internet-based courses.

Fifteen youth from Trask River High School at Camp Tillamook and Tillamook Youth Correctional Facility will graduate Saturday, with other OYA facilities holding ceremonies throughout June.

[Click here](#) for a video that explains Education Portal's program for incarcerated youth.

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*The Oregon Youth Authority is the state's juvenile justice agency, reducing victimization by helping at-risk young people lead productive, crime-free lives. Learn more at [www.oregon.gov/oya](http://www.oregon.gov/oya) and follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/oregonyouth](http://www.twitter.com/oregonyouth).*

*Education Portal makes education accessible through free, online courses that help students earn widely-accepted college credit, as well as pass the GED exam. Taught by experienced instructors and subject matter experts, Education Portal's 50+ courses consist of over 4,000 fun and engaging micro-lessons designed specifically for the online learner. Since their launch in 2011, over 2 million students have used Education Portal's free online courses. Education Portal is owned by Remilon, LLC, and based in Mountain View, California. Learn more at [www.education-portal.com](http://www.education-portal.com).*